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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Arito ASAI et al.

Serial No.: 10/068,895

Group Art Unit: 2162

Filed: February 11, 2002

Examiner: Truong, Cam Y T

For: DATABASE SYSTEM

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

STATEMENT OF SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW

Sir:

In response to the requirement that a statement of the substance of an interview be placed in the record, Applicant hereby submits the following.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges Examiner Cam Y T Truong for taking time from her busy schedule to conduct a personal interview on August 5, 2005, for the above-referenced Application. The interview was courteous and professional, and it is believed by Applicants' representatives that prosecution has been advanced because of this interview.

Concerning the substance of the interview, Applicants' representative requested clarification of the rejections presented in the Final Office Action. Several rejections were in conflict with one another and others incorrectly presented or discussed references. The following rejections were discussed:

Claims 4 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(x) (sic) as being unpatentable over Vora et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,819,273) in view of De Bellis (U.S. Patent No. 6,760,720).

Claims 4 and 15 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Vora et al. in view of De Bellis and Roderick (U.S. Patent No. 6,122,648). The Examiner withdrew the latter rejection, which included Roderick.

Claims 1, 5-7, 9-10, 17 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Vora et al. However, claims 5 and 19 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Vora et al. in view of Roderick. The Examiner withdrew the latter rejection, which included Roderick.

Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Vora et al. in view of De Bellis and further in view of Lee et al. Claim 16 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Vora et al. in view of De Bellis and Roderick and further in view of Lee et al. The Examiner withdrew the latter rejection, which included Roderick.

Additionally, the argument presented in the Office Action in support of the the rejection of claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Vora et al. in view of De Bellis and further in view of Lee et al. included references to Sanada and McClure et al. and did not reference DeBellis. The Examiner noted the inconsistencies and asserted that the reference to Sanada was erroneous and that McClure was properly included. The Examiner thus changed the rejection of claim 16 to be under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Vora et al. in view of De Bellis and further in view of Lee et al. and McClure et al.

Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Vora et al. in view of Roderick and further in view of McClure et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,850,928). Claim 18 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Vora et al. in view of McClure et al. The Examiner withdrew the former rejection, which included Roderick.

Similar to the rejection of claim 16, the argument presented in the Office Action in support of the rejection of claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Vora et al. in view of McClure et al. included references to Roderick, Sanada and Lee et al. The Examiner noted the inconsistencies and asserted that the reference to Sanada was erroneous and that Lee et al. was properly included. The Examiner thus changed the rejection of claim 18 to be under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Vora et al. in view of McClure et al. and further in view of Lee et al.

Applicants' representative then presented a summary of the present invention, as recited in claim 1, as providing a database system including a first interface for separably and directly, without via a network, connecting the search device and the command execution device. Since the first interface directly connects, without via a network, the search device and the command execution device in such a manner that the two can be separated from each other, the search device connected to the command execution device can be disconnected and a different search device, employing a desired search technique, can be connected to the command execution device.

Applicants' representative also presented the differences between the invention of claim 1 and the cited prior art, particularly the Vora et al. reference. It was noted that the Examiner asserted in the Office Action that the search and indexing engine in the memory and processor of Vora et al. correspond to the search device and command execution device, respectively, of claim 1. The Examiner further alleged in the Office Action that the search

and indexing engine in the memory and processor in Vora et al. are connected by the network coupler. However, Applicant's representative pointed out that the memory and the processor in Vora et al. are coupled together by a system bus. The network coupler in Vora et al. connects the server computer system and client computer.

Applicants' representative then presented a summary of the present invention, as recited in claim 4, and similarly in claims 5 and 19, as a database server which receives a search command transmitted via a network and searches a database based upon the received search command. The database server then determines whether the received search command can be transmitted to another database server, and, if so, the received search command is transmitted to other database servers. Another database server that receives the search command also conducts a database search to find the relevant data. The data that is found is sent from the server of the other database to the database server that transmitted the search command. Thus, data transmitted from the server of the other database and found as a result of the search by the other database servers is received by the database server that originally received the search command.

Applicants' representative further presented the differences between the invention of claim 4, and by extension claims 5 and 19, and the cited prior art, particularly the Vora et al. and DeBellis references. Applicant's representative indicated that neither Vora et al., nor De Bellis, nor any combination thereof, teaches or suggests a first determining device for determining whether the search command, which has been received by the first receiving

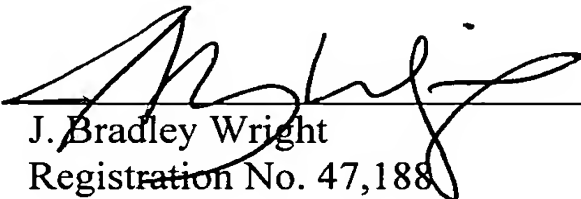
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device, can be transmitted to another database server, as in claim 4. Applicant's representative also argued that De Bellis does not teach that the database driver receives data representing search results transmitted from another database server, as in claim 4. It was noted and acknowledged that independent claims 5 and 19 contain similar language.

The Examiner indicated that she would consider a proposed Amendment submitted by Applicants' in view of the discussion.

August 22, 2005
Date


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